

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Method of preparing a birefringent marking comprising polymerised liquid crystal material, by printing a polymerisable liquid crystal material onto at least one surface of a reflective substrate and polymerising the liquid crystal material.
2. (Original) Method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal material is a nematic or smectic liquid crystal material.
3. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the substrate comprises at least one metallic or metallised layer.
4. (Original) Method according to claim 3, wherein the metal is selected from aluminium, gold and copper.
5. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the substrate comprises at least one layer of reflective pigments.
6. (Original) Method according to claim 5, wherein the reflective pigments are selected from interference or pearlescent pigments and liquid crystal pigments.
7. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1, wherein the liquid crystal material comprises at least one compound which induces and/or enhances planar alignment.
8. (Original) Method according to claim 7, wherein the compound inducing and/or enhancing a planar alignment is a surfactant.
9. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the polymerised liquid crystal layer has a splayed structure.
10. (Original) Method according to claim 9, wherein the polymerised liquid crystal layer exhibits substantially planar alignment at its surface facing the substrate and substantially homeotropic alignment at its opposite surface.

11. (Currently Amended) Birefringent marking obtainable by a method according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1.
12. (Currently Amended) Use of a method or a birefringent marking according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1 in decorative, security, authentication or identification applications.
13. (Original) Security, authentication or identification marking, thread or device comprising at least one birefringent marking according to claim 10.
14. (Currently Amended) Document of value, hot stamping foil, reflective foil or optical data storage device comprising at least one birefringent marking of claim 11 or at least one security, authentication or identification marking, thread or device ~~according to claim 13~~.
15. (New) Document of value, hot stamping foil, reflective foil or optical data storage device comprising at least one security, authentication or identification marking, thread or device according to claim 13.